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ABSTRACT

The present invention provides several embodiments that ultimately result in the *in vivo* loading of endogenous antigenic peptides from a target cell. The invention also presents a method for inducing an immune response to an endogenous antigen in a subject by delivering an effective amount of an agent that stimulates *in vivo* loading of the endogenous antigen into an Antigenic Peptide Binding Protein ("APBP"). The APBP presents the endogenous antigen to a T cell *in vivo*. A polynucleotide encoding an APBP is delivered to a target cell under conditions such that the APBP is expressed in the target cell. Endogenous antigenic peptides bind the APBP forming an APBP:peptide complex. A cytotoxic agent also is administered to the subject and delivered to the target cell in an amount effective to lyse the target cell which releases the complexes. The complexes present the antigenic peptide to a T cell or an antigen presenting cell (APC) which mounts the immune response. An effective amount of an antigen presenting cell (APC) recruitment factor can be administered to the subject to recruit APC to the locus of the target cell. APCs take up the APBP:peptide complexes and the peptides are processed and presented by MHC molecules to T cells *in vivo*.